

## Thomas Flourney to Andrew Jackson, November 9, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### THOMAS FLOURNOY TO JACKSON.

Mount Vernon, [ Ala. ,] November 9, 1813.

*Sir* , I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th last month, which came to my hands last night. Before this, I presume, you must be at the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa. I wish it were possible to send you a supply of provisions immediately, but the distance up to that place, and the danger of sending up boats is so great, and withall, the force under my command in this quarter of the district is so small, that it is impossible for me to give you that timely support, which my wishes, and your necessity calls for. I shall without delay adopt a plan which may have the effect of giving you relief, and aiding in crippling the enemy.

Genl. Claiborne, who commands the united states Volunteers on this frontier, will immediately take a position on the Alabama, at *Weatherford's* about 150 miles below the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa, to which place I shall immediately forward provisions. This is the highest place, I think he dare penetrate to, with safety. As your men are mounted, it will be much more practicable to make a forced march to that place, than it would be to send up to you, even if I were in sufficient force to venture it. I deem it unfortunate that I can not cooperate more effectively with you, but the difficulties I have had to encounter, and the necessity, I am under of returning to orleans, will prevent the high gratification I should feel in joining you in person, and contributing by every means in my power to your comfort and relief. I pray you to corrispond more immediately with Genl. Claiborne, and with Lt. Colo. Russell 3rd Regt. Infy, who will also proceed with

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his Regiment, to the Alabama, but as he is under orders from the war department to corrispond with, and place himself under the command of the Georgia forces, I consider him independant of my controul.

I regret that you have not before now given me notice of your movements, and that you have not *now* mentioned your numbers. But Colo. W. Reed (who is at Mobile with a number of Chactaw Indians, who will take the field against the creeks, so soon as they can git ammunication) informs me that you are 5000 strong. This force will enable you to put an end to the Creek War in a short time. Wishing you the full possession, and enjoyment of that fame, and reputation, which your conquest is calculated to inspire, I have the honor to be, Yr. Brother Soldier<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The following extract from a letter from Daniel Parker, chief clerk, War Department, to Governor Blount, Oct. 30, 1813, shows how little the authorities in Washington understood the situation on the Creek border: "I have the honor to inform your Excellency that General Flournoy is authorized to require such portion of the Detached Militia of Tennessee as he may find necessary for the effectual defence of New Orleans and the lower country. It is hoped he will not find it necessary to make such requisition—but should exigencies sanction the measure, the President requests your Excellency to make such detachment from the Militia who are now in service to chastise the hostile Indians. Considering the powerful force which is in service from Georgia, it is presumed a division of part of the Tennessee Troops would not prove injurious to the Indian expedition."

Dec. 27, 1813, when the spirit of mutiny had reduced Jackson's force to its lowest energy, Flournoy called on him for 500 men to garrison Mobile.